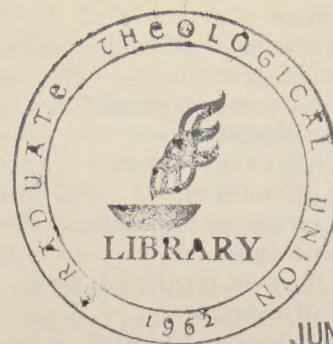




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Leaves of Healing



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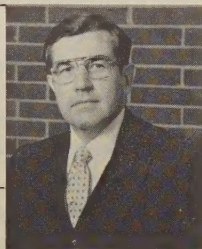
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The Trial Of Faith

Psalm 3:1-8

By General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen



In Psalm 3, as well as in the next two Psalms, we are confronted with trials and sorrows of God's ancient people. It is generally agreed that David wrote these Psalms, particularly the 3rd Psalm—when he fled from his son, Absalom. Absalom had taken over the throne of his father, David, and now David was a rejected king, and with his faithful followers had taken refuge east of the Jordan River.

David describes his trials and triumphs in these Psalms—as well as his eventual triumph through faith in God. The message of these Psalms speaks to our lives today because we face similar trials, difficulties and heartaches that the people of God did in the past.

Everyone experiences trials at some time in his life. If you haven't yet, just hold on a little, for they will surely come. Trials are a fact of life. Jesus, Himself, said: "In the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer; ye shall overcome the world."

When we face trials, we are tempted to ask, "Why?" Psalm 3 may help us understand some of those reasons. Verses 1 and 2 state:

"O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me."

"Many are saying of my soul, 'There is no deliverance for him in God.'"

Absalom, David's son, had quietly and subtly stolen the hearts of David's subjects, had himself crowned as king, and marched on Jerusalem. To prevent the slaughter of innocent people in Jerusalem, and for the protection of the temple, David and his small army and close friends fled the city and sought refuge across the Jordan River.

David was so discouraged he very likely felt like giving up. Most of the people had forsaken him for his son, having forgotten so quickly all the good that David had done for the country. Even some of his most trusted friends had deserted him. Worst of all was the fact that it was one of his own sons, whom he still loved, who was leading the rebellion.

It seems that when trials come, they come in bunches. They did for Job—and Satan does try to overwhelm God's people with a magnitude of problems to distress, discourage, and oppress them. Notice again how David felt about his trials:

O Lord, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me.

Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God."

David was right in saying that "Many are rising up against me," for Absalom had gathered a large army for

the purpose of seeking out and destroying David and all who followed him.

Not only does Satan seek to discourage and oppress God's people, he often opposes them and seeks their total destruction. His tactics haven't changed all that much, for he still turns one family member against another, causes rebellion of children against their parents, and turns a friend into a foe. Have you experienced something like this? Then consider how Jesus, David's greater Son, experienced this against Himself.

Another oppressive note to this scene is given to us in II Samuel 16, where this story is related. Shimei, a relative of the former King Saul, walked along beside David, cursing him and throwing stones at him.

Just over a year ago a poem appeared in the Leaves of Healing which I would like to quote:

I have a minister
Time was when he was a
good minister.
I pronounced him great
This I did because I liked him.
His sermons were wonderful
as long as I liked him.
His speech was passing fair
as long as I liked him.
He was a hard worker
as long as I liked Him.
He was a man for the job
as long as I liked him.
In fact, I was strong for him
as long as I liked him.
But my minister offended me
one day

Whether he knew it or not,
 I don't know
 But since that day, my minister has
 ceased to be good
 His sermons aren't so wonderful
 since he offended me
 His speech is of no account
 since he offended me
 His faults are more prominent
 since he offended me.
 He's not the man for the job now
 since he offended me.
 In fact, I'd like him to leave
 since he offended me.

Sometimes friends become bitter
 enemies over a misunderstanding.
 David faced that. Sometimes we do
 also. How we react to such experiences
 is what really matters in God's eyes.

Note again verse 2: *"Many are
 saying of my soul, There is no
 deliverance for him in God."* One of
 the most devastating devices of our
 enemy, Satan, especially when he
 cannot get us down by difficult
 circumstances, is to discourage us by
 negative opinions or by prophets of
 doom. Such faithless opinions eat
 away at the heart like a malignancy.
 This was one of the great
 discouragements that Job also faced.
 His friends concluded that God had
 evidently turned against Job for some
 secret sin that others didn't know
 about.

Let me issue this word of counsel to
 all of us: Beware of discouraging or
 undermining another's faith. A person
 may be going through a difficult trial
 and his faith may be weak, and the last
 thing that person needs is to have
 someone discourage the little faith he
 has. God wants us to encourage one
 another and build up one another in
 the faith. I well remember having had
 the warning of our Lord Jesus Christ
 brought to my attention concerning
 putting a stumbling block in the way of
 children. He said:

*"Whoever causes one of these little
 ones who believe in me to stumble,
 it is better for him that a heavy
 millstone be hung around his neck,
 and that he be drowned in the depth
 of the sea. Woe to the world because
 of its stumbling blocks! For it is
 inevitable that stumbling blocks
 come; but woe to the man through
 whom the stumbling block comes!"*

(Matthew 18:6, 7)

This is a very strong warning from
 the lips of the Savior, Himself. How it
 must hurt Him to hear people, and
 especially those who consider
 themselves to be followers of Christ, to
 belittle their children who are trusting

God, or to express harsh criticism of
 the church—its leaders or people—in
 the presence of children. My heart also
 aches when I see this happening.
 Beloved, take warning from the lips of
 our Lord!

God has ordained us to be promoters
 of faith—to be helpers of those who
 believe. What tragedy often occurs in
 the lives of those whose parents belittle
 or undermine faith in the Word of
 God. What a dangerous thing it is to
 cast doubt on the truthfulness and
 authority of the Word of God. It is like
 removing all navigation equipment
 from a plane or ship—leaving the pilot
 to his own experiences and senses to
 know where he is in relation to the
 dangers all about him.

*"And David went up the ascent of
 the Mount of Olives, and wept as he
 went, and his head was covered and
 he walked barefoot."*

(II Samuel 16:30a)

*"And (Shimei) threw stones at
 David and at all the servants of King
 David; and all the people and all the
 mighty men were at his right hand
 and at his left."*

*And thus Shimei said when he
 cursed, 'Get out, get out, you man
 of bloodshed, and worthless
 fellow!'"*

(II Samuel 16:6, 7)

At this point, David was feeling
 about as low as one can feel—but he
 maintained his trust in God and
 encouraged himself in the Lord. So
 must we! God doesn't promise to keep
 us from trials, but He does give us
 some great promises when we
 encounter them.

*"Consider it all joy, my brethren,
 when you encounter various trials,
 knowing that the testing of your
 faith produces endurance. And let
 endurance have its perfect result,
 that you may be perfect and
 complete, lacking in nothing."*

*"Blessed is a man who perseveres
 under trial; for once he has been
 approved, he will receive the crown
 of life, which the Lord has promised
 to those who love Him."*

(James 1:2, 3, 12)

As David shifted the center of
 attention from his trials to God, faith
 was strengthened and hope revived.
 Note that change in verses 3 and 4 of
 Psalm 3 from what was expressed in
 the first two verses:

*"But Thou, O Lord, art a shield
 about me, My glory, and the One
 who lifts my head."*

"I was crying to the Lord with my

*voice, and He answered me from
 His holy mountain."*

Faith comes when we get our eyes on
 our great God. If our dependence is
 solely upon ourselves, we can easily be
 overwhelmed when trials come one
 after another. If our trust is in our
 pastor or in the church or in
 government or in an organization, it is
 like "leaning on a broken straw." It is
 as Martin Luther wrote: "Did we in
 our own strength confide, our striving
 would be losing; Were not the right
 Man on our side, the Man of God's
 own choosing: Dost ask who that may
 be? Christ Jesus, it is He, Lord
 Sabaoth, His name, from age to age
 the same, and He must win the battle."

David's first need at that time was
 for safety—for protection, and God
 was a shield to him. He was that to
 Job, for Satan commented: "You have
 put a hedge around him." He is also
 that to us even as He was to Apostle
 Paul. This did not mean that Paul was
 protected from all harm coming to
 him, but it did mean that Paul was in
 God's hands. Nothing could come to
 him except as God allowed, and the
 things that did happen to him, as Paul
 stated, "worked for the good of the
 spread of the gospel." (Phil. 1:12ff)

Trials are opportunities for God to
 manifest Himself strong in our behalf.
 God uses trials to draw us closer to
 Himself and to fit us for greater
 usefulness in His service. God's grace
 is sufficient for us in every trial. That is
 His promise to us. (I Corin. 10:13; II
 Corin. 12:9) *"We are"* as Paul wrote
*"More than conquerors through Him
 that loved us."* (Romans 8:37) Thus we
 can also say with Paul, *"Thanks be
 to God who always causes us to
 triumph through Christ."* (II Corin.
 2:14) Can you say this? You can if you
 turn your attention away from your
 trials and your own insufficiency to the
 God Who is sufficient—Whose power
 and grace is unlimited.

As David left Jerusalem, his head
 was covered, his head bowed, and his
 eyes on the ground. How dejected he
 was. But as he turned his attention to
 God, he could say (verse 3) *"Thou, O
 Lord, art the lifter up of mine head."*
 In other Psalms, David testified:

*"The Lord is the strength of my
 life."*

*"My help cometh from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth."*

*"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall
 not want."*

"Wait on the Lord: be of good

courage, and He shall strengthen
hine heart, wait, I say, on the
Lord."

little poem that I like, goes like this:

Until I learned to trust,
I never learned to pray.
And I did not learn to fully trust
'til sorrow came my way.

Until I felt my weakness,
His strength I never knew
Nor dreamed until I was stricken,
that He could see me through.
Who deepest drinks of sorrow
drinks deepest too, of grace.
He sends the storms so He,
Himself, can be our hiding place.
His heart, that seeks our highest
good, knows well when things
annoy;
We would not long for heaven,
if earth held only joy.

As David shifted the center of his at-
tention from himself and his trials to
God, he went from dejection and
despair to triumph and hope. Note that
telling of victory and assurance in
verses 5 and 6:

*"I lay down and slept; I awoke, for
the Lord sustains me.*

*"I will not be afraid of ten
thousands of people who have set
themselves against me round
about."*

In his trial, David experienced the
peace of God. What a gift of God at
such a time—yet this is the promise of
God to every believer who will simply
trust God.

*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect
peace whose mind is stayed on Thee,
because he trusteth in Thee."*
(Isaiah 26:3)

After experiencing that peace while
imprisoned between two guards, awaiting
execution the following day, and was
not asleep when the angel came to
release him. God wants us to ex-
perience His peace—in the worst of
human circumstances—and we can
know that peace through trust in Him.
Not only did David experience God's
peace, but God's power. Note verse 7:

*Arise, O Lord; save me, O my
God! For Thou hast smitten all my
enemies on the cheek; Thou hast
shattered the teeth of the wicked."*

When David cared for the sheep in
his younger years, he knew that a blow
to the cheek of a lion would break his
back, thus rendering him nearly
helpless. By faith, David could speak
of the past tense—that God had smit-
ten his enemies.

How good it is to know—when
Satan comes at us like a roaring lion to
devour us—that he already is a
defeated foe. By the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ, we have been delivered
from the power of darkness; for He
spoiled principalities and powers, and
made a show of them openly,
triumphing over them in it. (See Col.
1:13 and 2:15) "Faith is the victory
that overcomes the world."

Finally, the victory that God gives
always brings a blessing to others.
Verse 8 speaks of this:

*"Salvation belongs to the Lord;
Thy blessing be upon Thy people!"*

Early in my Christian life, while I
was in high school, I went through
some very difficult trials for which I
sought counseling from my pastor. I
will never forget what Pastor Mason
said to me. When I told him that I
didn't know why God was allowing
this to happen to me, his response was,
"Roger, the Christian life is a life of
victory, but there cannot be victory
without a battle. Think about that!"
He also showed me how I could know
victory through faith.

"Salvation belongs to the Lord,"
David said, but is received by faith.
First, one must trust in Jesus Christ for
salvation—for one must be in the faith
before he can learn to live by faith.
Next, we must seek to obey God and
His Word with dependence on God the
Holy Spirit for the desire and power to
obey. This means that we must become

acquainted with God through His
Word. Spending time with the Lord
each day—in His Word and in prayer
are the essential ingredients for
growth. As we grow, God can then
make us a blessing to others. As trials
come, we will find His grace is
sufficient. Annie Johnson Flint not
only experienced this herself, but has
so beautifully put it into words:

He giveth more grace when the
burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the
labors increase;
To added affliction He addeth His
mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied
peace.

When we have exhausted our store
of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere
the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our
hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only
begun.

His love has no limit, His grace
has no measure
His power no boundary known
unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in
Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth
again.¹

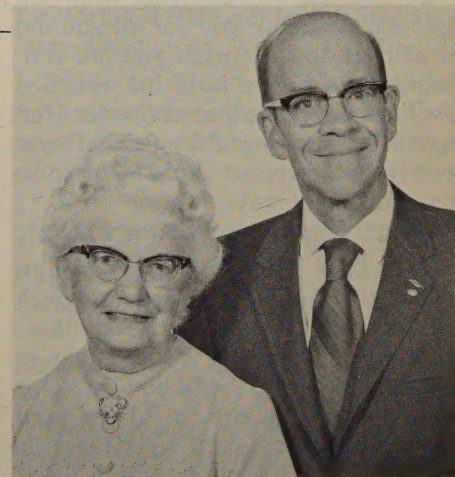
¹Evangelical Publishers, Used with
permission.

John Harold Zweizig A Fervent Servant Of Jesus Christ

Mr. J. Harold Zweizig, 85, died on
Good Friday (fittingly, we believe) and
was buried on Easter Sunday. He came
to Zion in 1902, as a result of being
healed in answer to prayer by Dr. John
Alexander Dowie. In the Christian
Catholic Church he served as deacon,
Sunday school teacher, choir member,
played the part of a disciple in Zion
Passion Play, and helped organize
Sunday evening services at the Church.

As an employee at American Can
Company, he was considered
something of a genius in designing effi-
cient canning operations in ill-suited
buildings, although Harold testified
that plans would come to him in
answer to prayer.

In our community, he was an ardent



Picture of Harold and Ethel Zweizig on the occa-
sion of their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971.

worker for Children for Christ, and
helped plan city-wide rallies for Youth
for Christ, bringing together many

ministers, which eventually led to the formation of the Zion-Benton Ministerial Association. He was involved with Child Evangelism Fellowship, was a member of the Zion Library Board and Zion Park Board. He was also a member of the Zion Senior Citizens Organization, the Christian Business Mens Committee, and was the recipient of the Zion Exchange Club's Golden Deeds Award.

Above all, he will be remembered as one of the most zealous soul winners that we will ever meet in our life-time. He purchased and passed out tracts, not by the hundreds or thousands, but by the hundreds of thousands. He passed them out wherever he was—on trains (he worked in Chicago and travelled by train and usually passed a tract to everyone on the train going and

coming), on the street, in bars, at bus depots, in parks, and wherever people would gather. In his diary, he would relate that when passing out tracts and speaking personally to patrons in the bars, the place would become very quiet, with everyone listening to his presentation of the gospel.

Harold had a restless spirit and a compulsive desire to reach everyone possible. He found it very difficult to relax at meal times and spent nearly every lunch hour out on the streets, witnessing for Christ. I well remember his visit to us while we were missionaries in Jamaica. He arrived on December 24th, 1959, and we had to await Christmas dinner as he was out walking the streets, speaking to people about Christ. In one day, he knew more people in the community that we

were living in than I did after nearly a year. In his diary of his four weeks in Jamaica, are the names of 141 persons he personally dealt with, along with the testimonies of many who prayed to receive Christ. The last time I was in Jamaica, I looked up some of these and joyfully found some of them still going on with the Lord.

In addition to his personal work, was his spirit of sacrificial giving. He continued to use antiquated cars and household furnishings so that he could give more to missions. Only the Lord knows the many thousands of dollars given because he gave so widely. He had a global vision and his dollars went around the globe. Our church, community, and world owes a great debt to this humble servant of God.

MISSIONS

For Praise & Prayer

"So we ourselves ought to support such people . . . to be fellow workers with them in the truth." III John 8.

South Africa (Mahon Mission)

P. O. Box 37
Kransfontein 9706
Republic of South Africa

Our dear Friends and Loved Ones,

It hardly seems six months have whizzed by since we last saw you. Our letter is long overdue - the days have been extremely busy and full.

It seems only yesterday we were there amongst you enjoying your rich fellowship. Thank you for all you did to help us and for what you are continuing to do. The Lord has enriched our lives and made our service for Him here more meaningful because of your love for and support of the work in so many different ways.

Some of the highlights of the past six months have been: In **October**, we attended the Baptist Assembly to which the Mission is affiliated. At these meetings the Baptists asked Edgar to help them in there Mission work as they had no one else to fill the need with his capabilities and experience. He agreed to do this on a very limited basis from February to October this year only. The balance of the month was spent in getting the work going again.

November found us sorting ourselves out and getting caught up on

the work not done while we were away (some still is not caught up!) Edgar also wrote one of the three remaining subjects he had to do to obtain his B. Th. Degree from University of South Africa. He wrote the other two in January and will be 'capped' on May 2nd. We praise the Lord for this and are very proud of Dad - he has worked hard for the Degree amidst unbelievable odds which would have discouraged someone else to quitting long ago - and all done without putting aside his work in any way. **December** of course was busy with preparations for Christmas besides the ordinary day to day work. Christmas meetings, although smaller in number (because of being so short) were rich in blessing. We were delighted to have two men from Malawi with us for a month over Christmas.

It was also a special joy to have the children come home - some the week before and some the week after Christmas. Garry came before and enjoyed the hustle and bustle of once again helping to prepare for the meetings.

January was an ordinary working month, keeping the wheels turning and still trying to catch up on back work—as was **February**, which had one difference in that little Lorryn

Anne was born on the 24th, Geffy Lee's birthday. Garry and Fiona are delighted as are Granny and Grandpa—three dollies now besides Anne's little Ryan who calls Edgar "Oupa" (Afrikaans for Grandpa). We enjoy having him and Anne here very much. They seem like our own children now.

March was probably the worst (let's say best) of all in that it was just packed with work—Conference preparations took priority—and the Lord greatly blessed us. He led us to the book "The Master Plan of Evangelism" by Coleman, together with the book, "God's Way to Keep a Church Going and Growing," by Gerber, translated into Zulu. Together the Lord used these books to be a real challenge to the ministers and delegates who attended. We had a change in programme this year as well—which proved a blessing. Each morning we had two teaching sessions and two business sessions. Afternoons were filled with a business session and then a "Workshop" in which we faced issues emanating from the morning's teaching. The morning Prayer Meetings from 7 - 8 also proved a great inspiration to each day.

Anne and I were kept busy, but we managed to attend the first two sessions of the first day and then one now

and again as we could slip away from the office details. We had a mountain of work the last day and it seemed we could not finish in time but we did — just in time to attend the final service—the Communion and Commissioning Service! Everyone felt it was one of our most meaningful Conferences—for which we give praise and glory to God— just thankful for the strength He gave to enable us to do our part.

The last week of March found us once again busy preparing for Easter. The devil attacked from all sides but the Lord overruled in everything—even bringing peace to our sad, troubled hearts through the loss of one of our best ministers who was killed in a motor accident when he and another minister were taking three carcasses of meat to the Johannesburg meetings. The other minister was unhurt, but the Rev. Samson Ngubeni died on arrival at the nearest hospital—one and a half hours away from the accident. It was a terrible shock to all and placed a sad note in all the meetings, but the Lord used this to challenge men and women here and the meetings were really blessed of the Lord. Pray for his widow and two daughters, eight and nine years old, and for the congregation he cared for. They had just gone through a hard patch together and now this tragedy.

Besides the accident, the devil layd the van which was to deliver the Lesotho tent and the van which took a tent to the Transkei C.C.C. meetings couldn't find the meetings. Edgar went on Friday and delivered the tent to Lesotho in time for the meetings and he and Garry went to the Transkei on Sunday. The Lord really blessed and turned mishaps into blessings. Many were saved and many Christians really challenged at these meetings. It is a time of rich Christian fellowship which is lovely for our folk and important in their busy lives.

Our children and their families all managed to be home over Easter. Timothy, Garry and Fee and little Loraine before Easter, and Carol and why and families after. It was so lovely to have them home once again. Mummy and Grandpa didn't have much time to enjoy their dollies as they were busy (especially Grandpa—who was busy).

Another March highlight was the arrival of Ivan and Jenny Edwards, Kevin (4) and Ryan (18 months) to help with maintenance work and

building here at Etembeni. Edgar has been away so much, leaving all this to me, we were so thankful to the Lord for sending the Edwards to us at this time.

April has started busy as ever but without the pressure of reports for Conference. We are still a bit behind with last year's work, but with the Lord's help hope to catch up by the end of next month.

Thank you for all you have done to support us in the work. We especially value your prayers. Many times we experience situations in which we know the Lord has overruled through prayer.

The country has been in the grip of the worst drought in forty years. (Some reports say worst in 200 years). Light rains have fallen the past few days which have brought surface relief. We have lost many trees and shrubs and the grass is dry and brown. As we look at people around us we see the same situation—dry, barren lives which need the Savior. Pray for us that we will be able to faithfully do the work He has called us to do each day.

Here at Etembeni, we have enjoyed a 'mixed' group of thirty-four young people who have given their lives to the Lord for a year to go around South Africa to bring the Gospel to young people through the Baptist churches. They have spent three months with us here in preparation. (We only supplied the facilities—they have cooked for themselves and arranged their own training programme.) Oh, for more workers, for the harvest is truly ripe and the laborers so few. Pray with us for more workers and for the finance to support them.

All for this time. Thank you again for your love and prayers. They mean so much to us.

Lovingly in Him,
Edgar and 'Netta Mahon

Phoenix, Arizona

News of Zion Mountain View Chapel, as reported by Rev. Gene Clymer, Pastor.

Annual Missionary Conference

"Investing in Heaven's Treasures," was the theme for Zion Mountain View Chapel's Annual Missionary Conference, held February 18-20. We were delighted to have our General Overseer, Roger W. Ottersen, and his wife, Gayleene, to bring the challenge at several of the services. Other guests

included Reverend and Mrs. Bernard Reimer of Inscription House Navajo Mission. They also brought thirty Navajo Christians to share in testimony and song. Also as speaker for the Saturday morning Breakfast Meeting was Reverend Dean Freed of Food for the Hungry. Joyce Ostrihon, veteran missionary with The Evangelical Alliance Mission in Columbia, South America, brought the opening message on Friday night.

We were disappointed that Miss Jo Gittings was unable to be with us as planned—due to illness—but we rejoice in that she is recovering well.

The Missionary Conference climaxed with the receiving of the Faith-Promises for Missions on Sunday. A goal of \$6,000 had been set by the Missions Committee—which was surpassed by more than \$500, which brought great rejoicing in the Lord.

Sanctuary Remodeling To Begin

The sanctuary has been in need of remodeling for some years. At the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 16th a presentation was made by the Board of Trustees to the congregation for a complete renovation of the interior and furnishings of the sanctuary. This received unanimous support by the congregation.

Remodeling will include new pews and platform furniture, new carpeting throughout the sanctuary and adjoining rooms, new lighting and the redecoration of the sanctuary walls. The platform will be restructured and the narthex wall will be covered with California driftstone, highlighted by a large wood cross.

Funds for this remodeling project have already been donated by members and friends, and we praise God for this provision.

Phoenix, Arizona

Letter from Miss Jo Gittings

Dear Friends of the Christian Catholic Church,

Thank you so much for praying for me during my stay in the United Arab Emirates. I have had some great experiences, and knew every day that the Lord was answering prayer and caring for me. As I traveled, He provided safety and comfort, and our prayers for health have been answered too! I

have made friends, worked at the hospital, and become acquainted with what living in the United Arab Emirates will be like.

I returned to the States on February 19, recovering from a slight case of hepatitis. I have been recuperating at my parents home in Sierra Vista, and this week I plan to move to Phoenix. I will be returning to my former job at County Hospital (in Labor and Delivery) and becoming involved with my home church. The Lord has really provided for me! My work will allow me to pick my own days (which means Wednesdays and Sundays off) as well as working part time. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences and I

thank God that he is so faithful in His provision.

I want to thank each one who prayed and who wrote to me while I was in the U.A.E. It was so encouraging to hear that you were thinking of me and praying for me.

I look forward to returning to the U.A.E. to minister at the Oasis Hospital, and I ask that you continue to support me in prayer. Some special concerns are: Continued health and strength; finding an apartment in Phoenix near the church; opportunities to share with friends at work about faith in Christ, opportunities to minister in churches while on deputation; the Lord's will concerning my

goal of attending language school in Jordan by January; and the financial support needed (w

A dear friend shared with me when I was home and it has been an encouragement. It is Isaiah 41:10

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee with the right hand of righteousness."

In Christ's love

Jo Gitt

c/o Zion Mountain View Church

915 E. Dur

Phoenix, AZ 850

Report Of Trip To The Philippines And Japan

By Earl L. Minton

When an invitation and request was received from Rev. Pat Hermosilla, Elder-in-Charge of the Christian Catholic Churches in the Philippines, for General Overseer Roger Ottersen, Rev. Clark Offner, Overseer of the Pacific area, and for myself to attend the Pastor's Conference, to be held in Leyte, April 7-9, it was determined that I should be the one to go to represent the Headquarters Church. At first I wasn't too excited about the prospect for I knew it would mean a lot of time and work in preparation and the same upon my return in catching up, and I already had more than I have been able to keep up with. However, my commitment to the Lord was that I would go anywhere and do anything that was according to His will, and I know God often works His will through those in authority over us. God personally confirmed that decision in the hearts of both Dorothy and myself, and repeatedly reconfirmed it throughout the trip.

Spiritually, we felt God had been preparing us for further ministry as we had experienced some severe trials in our lives and had experienced God's all-sufficient grace, though not without much struggle and frequent lapses into emotional captivity. We also felt that our ten years in Jamaica gave us some understanding of the problems and situations of those in the Philippines which we could identify with. Actually, there were far more similarities than we had anticipated—helping us to feel

right back at home.

Most important, we had daily support in prayer by many many members and friends in Zion, as well as by members of the churches in the Philippines and Japan. God wonderfully answered those prayers!

God kept us in good health throughout the entire trip. There were times when we began to feel ill, possibly through the change in diet or water, but then it would pass off and we would be well. Many nights we received insufficient sleep, yet God renewed our strength day by day. God also kept us safe. Driving in Manila is an exciting and nervous adventure, and we were thankful for a skillful driver and for God's protection. When misses seemed so often to be measured in millimeters, we were thankful for the prayers of God's people.

We also experienced unusual liberty in preaching and sharing and we know that many hearts were touched by the Spirit of God. This was true for both the Philippines and for Japan. The joy we personally experienced and the many new friends which we made more than amply repaid us for the extra work involved. It was part of the blessed rewards which God gave through our obedience to Him.

As the maximum time Dorothy could be away from her work at the Zion State Bank was three weeks, we were not able to get up into the mountains north of Manila to visit Larry and

Jan Allen, serving under Wycliffe, that was the only cut we had to make out of our proposed itinerary.

Similar to what is happening about every other nation, the Philippines is experiencing a constant migration of many young people to the cities, seeking work and a higher standard of living. Metro-Manila is now a city of ten million with similar economic struggles being experienced all over. Like many other mission societies, our work began in the rural areas and only more recently has gained a foothold in the cities.

When we began sending financial help to an orphanage in the Philippines in 1945, there wasn't that much thought given to church planting as the orphans grew up to Christian manhood, they began to reach out in evangelism and church planting and others joined them. To date, 42 churches in the Philippines are two in the cities. In fact, the church in Meyto is far enough out of Manila (about 30 miles) to be considered so that really, we have only one city church—and that is the church in Caloocan, where Rev. Pat Herr is pastor. Yet, the areas of greatest spiritual need are in the cities, and we are glad to see that Rev. Hermosilla is concerned about this and seeks to reverse this trend.

The lot on which the church is built is so valuable—typical of the city. The present structure is 25 feet, and during seasonal rains, people with outside looking in. I counted 100 people on the morning with more jammed in for

commodate the members the hours of Sunday at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday. Bible classes are held each week in various homes and most of the day on Saturday.

The Caloocan church is now in a program which will double the sanctuary—using the maximum space their lot provides. The building has also been designed for a second floor to be added for classroom space later—as funds are available. With the construction of the new walls, some of the old walls had to be torn down, leaving the congregation much exposed to the elements. By April 12th, the walls had been nearly completed and construction was again about to come to a standstill as funds were exhausted. It will take another \$15,000 to finish on the roof and enclose the building.

A Christian Kindergarten school is housed in the Caloocan church and is supported by the church with staff and materials.

Our trip to Meyto, thirty miles out of Caloocan, was really a thrill, for that congregation, which had for so many years met in a home, had been able to erect a large building. The congregation is seeing steady growth under the capable leadership of Pastor Bert Gonzon (who is also Assistant Director of Far East Broadcasting Company in Manila), and Rev. Ellie Mercado, and a good staff of Sunday school teachers and workers. The Meyto church also preaches and conducts a day school.

The primary purpose for our visit to the Philippines was to attend the Christian Catholic Church Pastor's Conference, held at our orphanage in Manila. For us it was an hour ride by boat and a two-hour ride by bus, but most of the delegates, especially those coming from Mindanao, it was a day trip by bus, then boat, and then by buses. Despite a severe drought in Mindanao, with about a 50 percent crop loss, all four of the Mindanao District Supervisors and many pastors and wives managed to be present, along with the pastors and wives from Luzon and Leyte. In all, about 100 persons were housed and fed at the orphanage, and we commend La Pena (supervisor of orphanage and churches in Leyte) and all the workers and volunteers for their excellent management of meals.

The difficulty experienced was the language barrier. Those in the Manila

area speak Tagalog, the national language, and also, most speak English. Visayan (Cebuano) is spoken in Leyte, and Visayan or Manobo or some other dialects are spoken in Mindanao. Fortunately, God put it into my mind to send some messages in advance to Rev. Hermosilla who had them translated and mimeographed. That was helpful!

Reports of the churches were given in English by the different supervisors or by someone designated who could speak English, and it was a joy to see the progress of the work. Our greatest regret was the impossibility of personally visiting each church in Leyte and Mindanao. Even had we the time, political instability in areas of Mindanao would have prevented our visiting some of the churches there. During the last visit of Rev. Hermosilla and others to churches in Mindanao, the bus they were on was ambushed and they nearly lost their lives.

On April 12th, we said goodbye to our friends in the Philippines and flew on to Japan. On the plane were a number of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees on their way to the United States, so we enjoyed getting acquainted with some of them.

It being our 34th Wedding Anniversary, Clark and Barbara Offner met us at the Nagoya airport and took us out to a very lovely restaurant to celebrate. That was the first of many experiences of removing our shoes at the door—a really good idea for helping to keep the house clean—and absolutely necessary to curb the wear and tear of shoes on the tatami mats of Japanese homes.

Dorothy and I were a bit apprehensive as to how we would cross the language and cultural barrier for effective ministry. We needn't have been. We soon discovered that there is a language of the heart, ministered by the Holy Spirit that breaks all barriers down. We felt an immediate warmth of fellowship and bond of love—just as we had experienced in the Philippines. We also found that even speaking through an interpreter was not a formidable hindrance to effective communication. Of course, Dr. Offner is an excellent interpreter, which helped to put us more at ease.

Dorothy was the first to speak at the Takahama Church—to a Ladies' Meeting on Thursday afternoon. She chose as her topic the effects of trials on a person's life—how they can either make one bitter through self pity, or how they can be used of God to draw

one closer to Himself and also to more effective service for Christ. As she spoke, first one then another reached for her handkerchief, being visibly moved by the message. In fact, of all of us, Dorothy was the only one that seemed in full control of her emotions—which was to us a powerful evidence of the prayer support of God's people, for only three days before we left Zion, Dorothy was having such a struggle with her emotions that she could hardly think of packing. God just wonderfully undertook for both of us.

On the following Sunday, the Takahama congregation met with the Kariya congregation for worship and a fellowship meal. It was a precious time together. The Japanese are artists in setting a beautiful table, as well as in preparing food that has both eye and taste appeal. Following the meals we were presented with a most beautiful vase as a token of their love and appreciation for the Christian Catholic Church and its ministry to them through the Offners.

One thing we had not anticipated in our trip to the Philippines and Japan for ministry, was the gifts lavished upon us. We had taken many gifts with us but never anticipated any being given to us. We shall always treasure these manifestations of their love and fellowship.

We thoroughly enjoyed being with Overseer and Mrs. Offner and were so glad to see that Barbara was able to be back teaching (Nursery) school following major surgery a few weeks prior to our arrival. We were also delighted in our visit with Rev. and Mrs. Tomita and enjoyed their warm hospitality and a typical Japanese meal of rice and raw fish, which was surprisingly good to our Western tastes.

Overseer Offner has developed quite a daily telephone ministry, both in English and in Japanese. The one in Japanese is more devotional in nature. For the English one—on a separate telephone line—Overseer Offner chooses a topic, speaks briefly on it and invites listeners to write themes on the topic. These are then printed in a paper and distributed to all interested. The Christian message is presented in small bits and it also opens the door to further discussion by telephone or at regularly scheduled meetings for those who phone in and are willing to meet with others. Generally, over a hundred calls a day are made for the English message.

As the Takahama Church is located on a property needed by the city, negotiations are being made to sell the property and building and move to another larger lot a short distance away. Plans are presently being drawn up and construction should begin by fall. The fellowship at Takahama would appreciate our prayers for this large undertaking.

Enroute home, we stopped briefly in California to visit my sister and family. Both she and her husband had only recently become Christians and it was thrilling to see their love for the Lord and desire to reach others for Christ. We both recognize that this was another answer to our mother's prayers.

Arriving home we were welcomed enthusiastically by the members and friends of the church, and it was thrilling to learn of God's blessing here while we had been gone. Quite a few had received Christ while we were away, and are now enrolled in Bible classes for new believers.

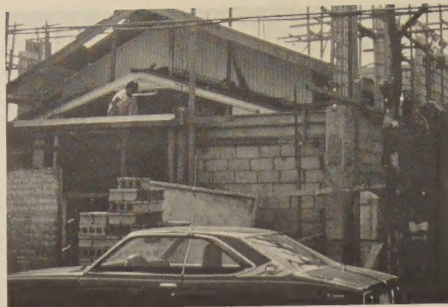
"To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

NOTE: In reading this report, you probably recognized several areas of financial need. Should the Lord lead and enable you to share in any of these needs, we will be happy to receipt your gift and forward it on. Make out your check to The Christian Catholic Church, designate it where it is to go, and send it to the Christian Catholic Church, Dowie Memorial Drive, Zion, IL 60099.

The five areas of need are as follows: (1) The Caloocan Church building; (2) Assistance to drought victims of our churches in Mindanao; (3) Computerized typewriter for Dr. Clark Offner; (4) Takahama Church building; and (5) Reaching out to the cities in Mindanao.



Elder Pat Hermosilla presenting a Plaque of Appreciation to Overseer and Mrs. Earl Minton, "In recognition of its (The Administrative Council) loving concern and faithful support to the Christian Catholic Church mission in the Philippines."



Caloocan Church building under construction.



One of the many Meyto Church Sunday school classes, held out of doors in good weather.



Enjoying the hospitality of Rev. and Mrs. Tomita. Also pictured: Overseer Clark Offner and Dorothy Minton.



High school and adult Sunday school classes session.



Baptismal Service of the Meyto congregation, December 5, 1982. Pastor Bert Dizon at the far left and Ellie Mercado (back to camera).



Barbara Offner, teacher of the Nursery Class at Nagoya International School.

"Man of the Year" Award To Mr. Ross Burgess

At the Father and Son Banquet, Mr. Ross Burgess was presented with the Christian Catholic Church "Man of the Year" Award and plaque. In making the presentation, Mr. Richard Anderson, Youth Director, expressed appreciation for the dedication to Christ and the Church and the faithful service rendered by Mr. Burgess in the various areas of church life. These include the music ministries of our church, serving on the Board of Trustees, promotion of Camp Zion, and active support of the total program of the Church.



The honor of receiving the "Man of the Year" Award came as a surprise to Mr. Burgess, but it was well deserved. Congratulations!

In Memoriam

Mrs. Charles (Naomi) Christmas, nee Puhl, April 1, 1983, in Florida.

Miss Doris Jeffrey, daughter of the late Overseer Jeffrey of Guyana, March 26, 1983.